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BOOK REVIEWS.

Graphic Algebra for Secondary Schools. By H. B. NEWSON. Boston: Ginn & Co., 1905. Pp. 19.

This pamphlet is intended by the author to meet the growing demand for graphical methods and illustrations in connection with elementary algebra in secondary schools. A recent committee of the American Mathematical Society, in formulating standard college-entrance requirements in algebra, strongly recommended the use of graphical methods and illustrations, particularly in connection with the solution of equations. This little book is the author's interpretation of the committee's recommendations, both as to the kind and the amount of such graphical work. It may be used to supplement any textbook in algebra.

The subject is treated under the following headings: the point, the linear equation and its graph, simultaneous linear equations, the quadratic equation, quadratic equations in two variables, and simultaneous quadratic equations.

The subject-matter of the book is clearly expressed, and would not be difficult of comprehension by the average student. In the exercises, which are well planned, the pupil is directed to construct the graphs of the different equations, and then verify his constructions by solving the equations algebraically.

The author has done his work admirably, and the pamphlet would be a valuable and interesting supplement to the ordinary high-school algebra. It is unnecessary to dwell upon the value of graph in vitalizing the study of equations, in relation to the study of science in the high school, and as a basis for advanced work in mathematics.

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PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
Riverside, Ill.

Advanced Civics: The Spirit, the Form, and the Functions of the American Government. By S. E. FORMAN. New York: Century Co., 1905. Pp. xxi + 456.

Within the last five years several excellent textbooks on the subject of civics have appeared. Among these, *Advanced Civics*, recently published by the Century Co., merits special attention. In its clear, concise statement of facts, in its wise selection of the things most essential, and in its logical arrangement of subject-matter this book is almost without a rival. A great quantity of material, which, however important it might seem to the teacher, he has been compelled to pass over in his class work because of the limited time at his disposal, has been gathered up by the author of this book, and by some magic art packed away so neatly within its 450 pages that there is little appearance of crowding, and no uneasy sense that much of importance has been left out. Whatever he was unable to carry along in the text as baggage he has carefully boxed up in his "Suggestive Questions and Exercises," to be brought on as freight as time and circumstances might permit.

But while this book is a veritable encyclopedia of facts about our government, it is also a connected and interesting history of our political growth and a prophecy as to our future. The secret of this is found in the fact that the author views the American government as a living, growing organism. He does not treat his facts as a mass of dead, inorganic matter to be cast together in a fixed mold and worshiped as a pagan idol, nor as a lot of dry bones to be wired together with logical ingenuity into a repulsive skeleton, fit only to command the interest of political antiquarians. His facts are related to living organism. The American government is flesh and blood, as well as bones. It is the embodiment, also, of an immortal spirit—the spirit of a Simon de Montfort and a Cromwell, of a Hooker and an Otis, of Washington, Webster, Clay, and Lincoln; the spirit of thousands of patriots and statesmen who have toiled and sacrificed, who have gladly given up time and money, and even life itself, to hand down to coming generations civil and religious liberty as the common birthright of all.

The book is divided into three parts. In Part I we trace the growth of this spirit, revealing itself in charters and constitutions, in new laws, and in changing political customs from the day of Magna Charta down to our own time. This part of the book treats also of the hygiene of the body politic, as appears, for instance, in the following sermonette on the duties of citizenship: "The duties of citizenship are always equal to its rights. If I can hold a man to his contracts, I ought to pay my own debts; if I may worship as I please, I ought to refrain from persecuting another on account of his religion; if my own property is held sacred, I ought to regard the property of another man as sacred; if the government deals fairly with me and does not oppress me, I ought to deal fairly with it and refuse to cheat it; if I am allowed freedom of speech, I ought not to abuse the privilege; if I have a right to be tried by a jury, I ought to respond when I am summoned to serve as a juror; if I have a right to my good name and reputation, I ought not to slander my neighbor; if government shields me from injury, I ought to be ready to take up arms in its defense."

In Part II we study the anatomy of the American state as it now is: its framework in national and state constitution; its nerves and sinews and muscles in the organization and practical workings of political parties. The chapter on "Territories and Dependencies" and that on "Party Organization" in this portion of the book are of especial interest and to the point.

Part III deals with the functions, the physiology, of government. It does not stop short with a bare enumeration and classification of the services which government actually renders. It raises the serious question: "What functions ought government to attempt to perform?" In his discussion of this question the author aims to be fair to the different views held on this subject as typified by the individualist, the liberal, and the socialist. His attitude is that of a student and not of an advocate. He is a seeker after truth, and not a purveyor of cut and dried theories. This discussion of the functions of government offers, also, a fine opportunity for an introduction to the study of many vital and economic problems which the author has not neglected.

It was evidently the intention of the writer that his book should serve, primarily, as a textbook in civics in the more advanced secondary schools and colleges. It is well adapted to this purpose. But it is also a valuable handbook for every American citizen, an interesting guide into the field of politics, and an inspiring counselor to duty.

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